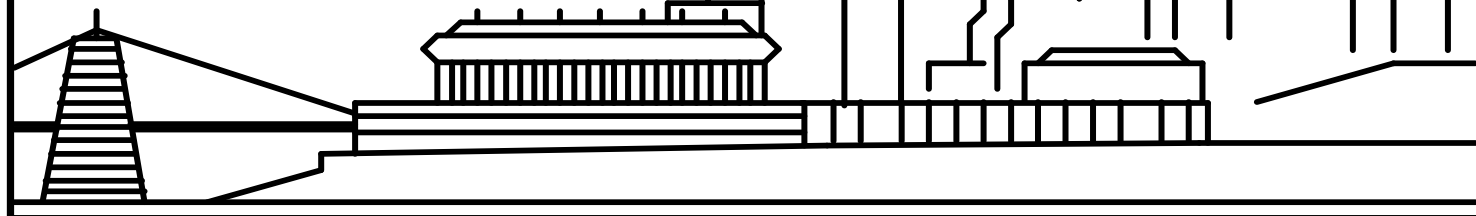




INSTITUTE OF
ELECTRICAL &
ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERS, INC.



MAY 1993

IEEE CINCINNATI SECTION NEWSLETTER

MAY TOUR: The Dalton Street Post Office

DATE: May 20, 1993

PLACE: The Dalton St. Post Office

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

On May 20, 1993 there will be a tour of the Post Office facilities at 1600 Dalton Street in Queensgate. There will be no Section meeting or dinner.

Enter through either the North or South doors. We will meet in the north end of the lobby of the main Post Office. You may park either on the street or in the Employee's parking lot just North of the building (identify yourself as being part of the IEEE tour).

The tour will be conducted under the direction of Mr. Chuck Meyer, Manager of In-Plant Support. The tour will last about one and 1/2 to 2 hours. We will observe the operation of the mail sorting operation.

THE TOUR IS LIMITED TO 50 PEOPLE!!!

Members may contact Dee Scott at 385-9446 to reserve a place in the tour.

Please contact Ron Harbaugh at 352-6202 if you need further information.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By JIM EVERLY

Last month's program, "Tesla: Man Out of Time", presented an overview of Nicola Tesla and his inventions. The meeting was well attended and the discussion that ensued afterwards was as entertaining as the program. A sincere thanks to Messrs. Engelmann and Reiman for a stimulating program and I am sure it is gratifying for them to know that Electrical Engineering history is appreciated by the Cincinnati Section.

An Executive Committee meeting was held on April 29, 1993. Routine business, budgets and upcoming meetings were discussed. In addition, the Cincinnati Section allocated \$500 to each of the IEEE Student Chapters as award monies to be distributed to students exhibiting outstanding Senior Projects. Now we could use some help from the membership. Anyone interested in participation as a Judge? Here is your chance to get involved with Electrical Engineering and Engineering Technologists of the future. The committee also discussed

IEEE involvement with the Cincinnati Council for the Advancement of Science. I'll keep you posted on this activity.

Our social event of the year is the annual golf outing to be held on Friday, June 4, 1993, at the Fairfield Golf Course. We have plenty of prizes, snacks and a sit down steak dinner. Be sure to get your reservations in by May 27, 1993. Please call Mike Clodfelder at (513) 287-1721 for golf reservations and dinner tickets.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CINCINNATI BELL

by George C. Dreyer

Put together the unlikely combination of a leg injury, a hill, a creative mind and financial resources and you describe the roots of Cincinnati Bell, Inc.

Charles Kilgour had the leg injury and financial resources. The hill was between his office at the Miami Machine Works and Kilgour's home and his messenger (running back and forth between the two) had a creative suggestion, i.e., why not install a telegraph line to reduce the number of trips? From this unusual beginning in January 1873 and a few months experience, a charter was granted for the incorporation of The City and Suburban Telegraph Association on July 5, 1873.

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was patented and was demonstrated in Cincinnati in July 1877 on City and Suburban Telegraph Association lines between Mt. Lookout and Kilgour's office at the Franklin Bank on Third Street, east of Walnut. On August 21, the first contract for telephone service was signed by the Cincinnati Gas & Coke Company (now CG&E) and the "Telephone Company" was off and running.

The following year, 1878, the Cincinnati company signed a contract with The Bell Telephone Company of Boston to become the exclusive agent for Bell's telephones in Cincinnati and all territory within a radius of 25 miles of its city limits. Thus, the company became City and Suburban Telegraph Association and Telephonic Exchange and was the "first" exchange in Ohio.

At the end of 1879 the company had 1000 subscribers. In late 1880 "pay phones" were placed in suburban communities. In December 1893 the first "long distance call" was placed to New York City while it took until January 1915 to call San Francisco. In all cases, it took a manual operator to place the call.

With its expanding service geography and focus on telephone service, the company changed its name to The Cincinnati and Suburban Telephone Company in 1903. This name was to endure for nearly 70 years and was changed to Cincinnati Bell, Inc. in 1971.

As The Cincinnati Gas & Coke Co. ventured into electric generation as well as distribution and The Electric Trolley Company moved along and more & more people found the telephone a useful device, "telephone poles" became a cobweb of wires posing significant safety hazards while the starting and stopping of trolleys injected unwanted noise in the telephone lines. Thus the telephone company began to "go underground" in 1891 when the technology was available.

In July 1914 the company opened the eleven floor headquarters building at 4th & Hammond Sts. to house people and equipment. By 1981 this building fell to the demolition ball to make way for Atrium II. The company headquarters had been moved to the recently completed Atrium I at 4th and Main Streets. Telephone competition seems to have always been with us. The Gold & Stock Telegraph Company ceased its telephone business in Nov. 1879 agreeing that they would concentrate on telegraph service while the company purchased competitor Hamilton Home Telephone Co. in Hamilton, OH in 1919.

As the number of subscribers increased, so did the number of manual connections as well as operators required to connect them. As early as 1879, two Cincinnati brothers teamed up to devise the "Jones Switch Table" which was installed at 5th and Madison Streets in Covington. In 1891, Almon B. Strowger (an undertaker in Kansas) patented what became widely known as the Step-by-Step switching principle. Other schemes were devised and tested with the pulse system being the first in Cincinnati to respond to pulses generated by the telephone dial in the subscriber's home. Actually, it wasn't Cincinnati at all; it was Norwood which was cut into service June 28, 1930 with 14,000 subscribers.

Downtown Cincinnati received dial service in 1931 after the construction of the 7th and Elm building with other wire concentrations following. However, it wasn't until November 1952 that all Cincinnati Bell subscribers could dial their own calls. In that 22 year span, various "switching machines" like Step-by-Step, #1 Cross Bar, #5 Cross Bar, in addition to panel, were placed in service as the "manual operators" gave way to automated dialing.

As conversion to automated dialing progressed, exchange names like Blue Ash, Thatcher, Dunlap and a host of others disappeared although they remain in the memories of many. Other names like Cherry, Parkway and Main, as well as Hemlock, Colonial and Axtel, disappeared by 1962 as the company converted to 7 digit dialing for all numbers to accommodate the demand for more phone numbers as well as to prepare for nationwide dialing (Remember Parkway 1700, the number for Shillito's time? Today it is 721-1700 for time and other "things").

In 1984, the Bell System was broken up into separate regional telephone companies (AT & T had owned the majority of stock in all Bell Companies except Cincinnati and Southern New England) . All the separated companies, in addition to Cincinnati and Southern New England, created holding companies with the telephone company being the principle subsidiary.

Thus today we have Cincinnati Bell, Inc. (the holding company), Cincinnati Bell Telephone (the telephone company), Cincinnati Bell Information Systems (a software development and data processing subsidiary), Matrix Marketing, Cincinnati Bell Long Distance, Cincinnati Bell Directory, etc., etc., etc.

Heavy into fiber optics and gigabit digital transmission systems, all-digital switching and an envied switching and transmission systems maintenance control center, The Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company is as modern as any in the United States. The Information Systems and Matrix Marketing Companies enjoy an international presence while the Long Distance Company operates in several other cities.

From a leg injury, an idea and the telegraph, Cincinnati Bell, Incorporated has a 120 year history of growth and expansion into a host of information related products and services.

NOTE: The above "History of Cincinnati Bell" was written by Mr. George C. Dreyer, a retiree of Cincinnati Bell.

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